MARVEL

THE ULTIMATES

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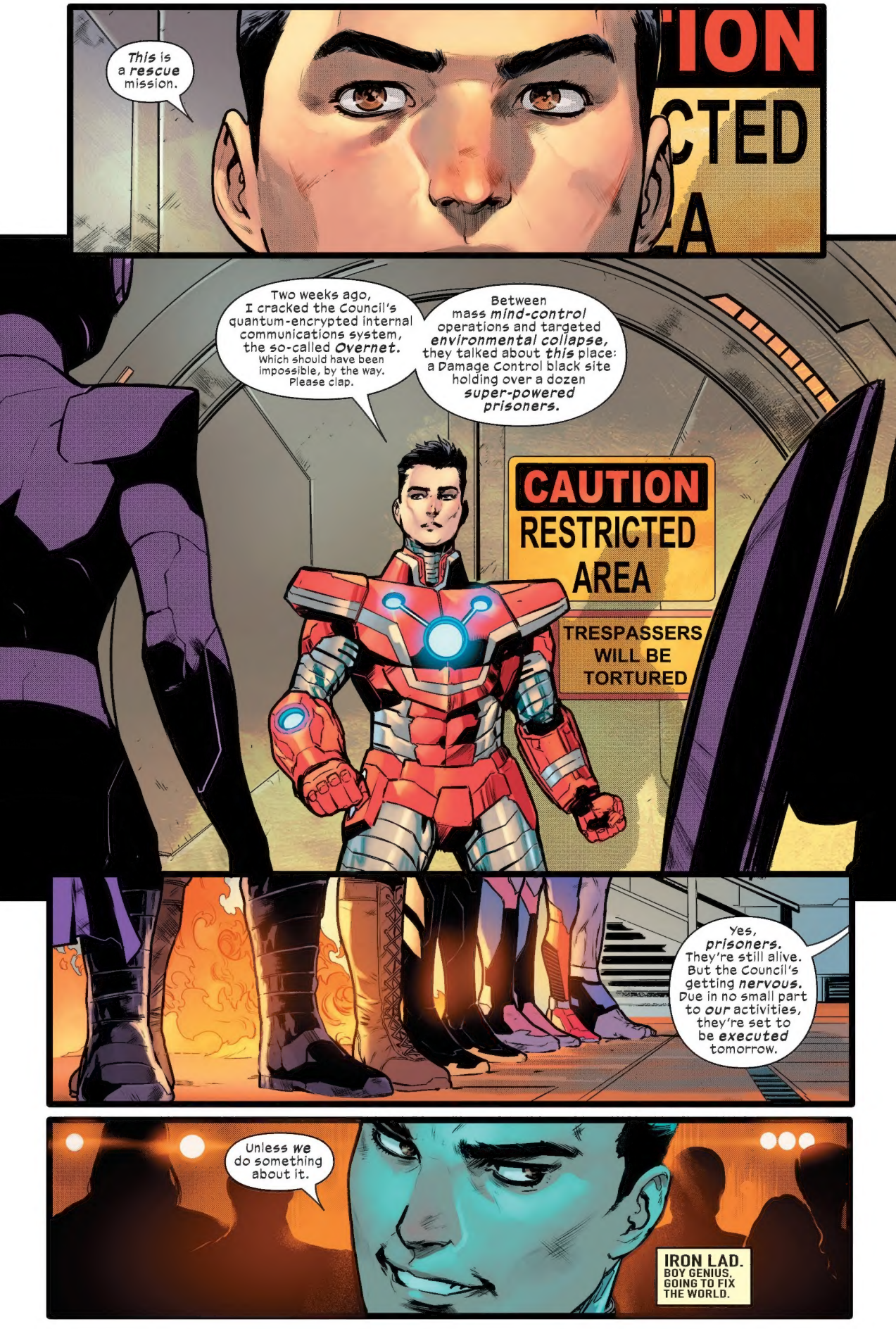

This is a rescue mission.
ION
CTED
LA
Two weeks ago, I cracked the Council's quantum-encrypted internal communications system, the so-called Overnet. Which should have been impossible, by the way. Please clap.
Between mass mind-control operations and targeted environmental collapse, they talked about this place: a Damage Control black site holding over a dozen super-powered prisoners.
CAUTION
RESTRICTED AREA
TRESPASSERS WILL BE TORTURED
Yes, prisoners. They're still alive. But the Council's getting nervous. Due in no small part to our activities, they're set to be executed tomorrow.
Unless we do something about it.
IRON LAD.
BOY GENIUS. GOING TO FIX THE WORLD.

That's why, for the first time, I am assembling the entire Ultimates Network.
THE HUMAN TORCH. RECENTLY RESTORED ANTIQUE ANDROID. KILLED HITLER.
It's about time, isn't it?
HAWKEYE. WIELDS A STONE AGE WEAPON WITH A HIGH-TECH TWIST.
Feels like we've been waiting forever.
SIF. WARRIOR GODDESS. JAILER OF THOR.
THOR. DEPOSED GOD OF THUNDER. PRISONER OF SIF.
CAPTAIN AMERICA. MAN-PLUS WITHOUT A COUNTRY.
SHE-HULK. PROTECTOR OF GAMMA ISLAND.
WASP. NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL. BORN FOR THIS.
GIANT-MAN. SOMETIMES FEELS SMALL. GROWING INTO IT.
AMERICA CHAVEZ. AMNESIAC TEMPORAL REFUGEE.
"Well... almost the entire Network."
DOOM. POST-TRAUMATIC REED RICHARDS. HAS A SECRET.

Uh, should we all just be standing out in front of a secret facility talking like this...?
I've taken care of the surveillance systems. They won't see us coming.
We don't anticipate much resistance at first, but we have to assume the place will be swarming with H.A.N.D. Agents in under five minutes.
They may even have a super-powered asset or two nearby. Cap?
We don't want a big, protracted fight. After decades of confinement, these poor people could be injured, disoriented or near death.
AUTION
STRICTED
They're torturing human beings in there. So I kind of want a big fight. But I get it.
Save the heroes. Be the heroes. And make it quick.
No one dies today. Not...not because of us.
This is a rescue mission.
BOOOOM
GA
RES

Ultimates...
...assemble...?
At last. Patience is a tree with bitter roots that bears sweet fruits.
Will you join me for some tea?

BANNER!!!
She-Hulk, don't--!
Joena!
I haven't seen you since you were a child. You've grown.
RARRGHHH!
Hate made me strong! I have been saving it!
I have been saving all my hate for YOU!!!
Yes, I am well aware.
Rage can be a devastating weapon...

KRAKADOOOOMMMMM!!!!
...in the right *hands.*
ATOMIC IRON FIST.
(15 HIROSHIMAS LVL.)

Now, how about that *tea?* I made enough for *everyone.*
EEEE! EEEE! EEEE! EEEE!
SIGNAL NOT FOUND
M.I.A.: Iron Lad, Captain America, Thor, Sif, Giant-Man, Wasp, America Chavez, She-Hulk, Hawkeye, Human Torch.
SIGNAL NOT FOUND
What have you gotten yourself into now, Iron Lad...?
SIGNAL NOT FOUND
SIGNAL NOT FOUND
Ultimates Network disconnected.

Did he just...? What did he just...?
We need to get out of here-- *now.*
The doors we came through are gone. Some kind of magic. We're *trapped.*
Where *are* we?
I have brought you to Heaven. The Immortal City of *K'un-Lun,* to be precise.
I rule all *seven* of Heaven's capital cities. What does that make me, do you suppose?
Don't...don't be afraid of him. There's *ten* of us. He's... he's still just one man.
One giant, radioactive man.
You should be *honored.* It is not often that *terrorists* are permitted entrance to Heaven. But for *you...*

...I made special arrangements.

Jan, I read about those guys! They're total *pacifists!*
Hey, what are they...?

O, Gray-Skinned World-Breaker and World-Remaker!
Strongest One There Is!
Sigh I'd hoped we could be civil about this. I made *tea.*

Rrrgghhhhh!
The tea is a much more *peaceful* death.

We are His immortal instruments!
The poison--harvested from a flower that grows only on Heaven's highest peak--kills *quickly* and *painlessly.*

B-by His holy blood, no harm can come to us!
But I suppose the time for tea is *over.*

In His shadow, all that is puny dies or is made strong.
DECAY'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER.
FAT COBRA.
URANIUM BROTHER #235.
PRINCE OF MELTDOWNS.
BRIDE OF NINE WORLD-BREAKERS.
CRANE MOTHER OF THE BOMB.
It's gone cold.
...searching for signal...signal lost... searching--
TAP TAP TAP TAP
Impossible. These instruments should be able to find them anywhere in the universe.
THE IMMORTAL WEAPONS OF HULK.

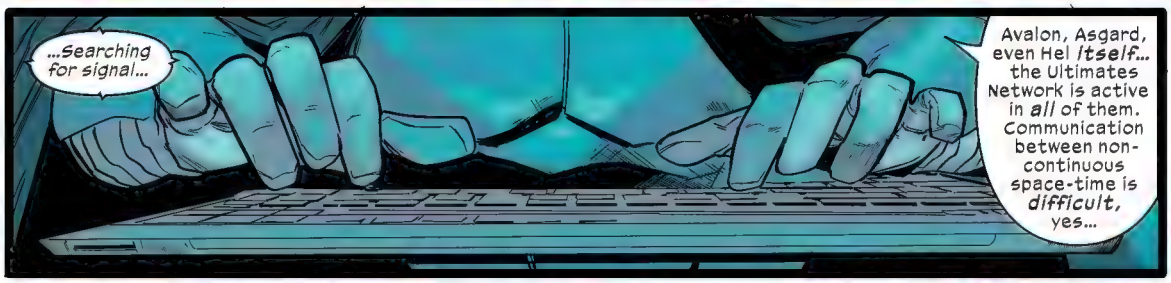
We have to go *now!* Thor, open--
FLYING FUSION STOMP.
ZRRCRAACK
Don't leave!
Ultimates! We'll have to fight our way out!
This is what you *wanted,* isn't it?
THERMONUCLEAR THUNDERFOOT.
My *attention.*
My *anger.*
Well, *congratulations.* You have *officially* made me *angry.*
WOOSH

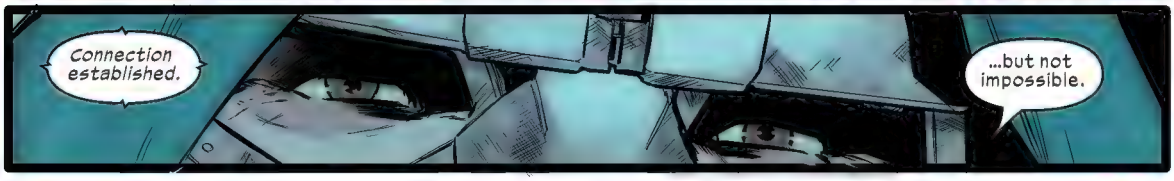
He barely feels it!
FIST OF THE GAMMA STAR.
HAHA!
Heaven's a lot more violent than I thought it'd be!
TONNG

Y-you're supposed to be pacifists! Ooof!
I listened to the Incredible Hulk's audiobook! My mom recommended it!

Sorry, honey... some people will say anything to sell books.

well struck! with a few thousand years of practice, you might even provide a challenge!
THE MAESTRO'S CRIPPLING CRESCENT KICK.


...Searching for signal...
Avalon, Asgard, even Hel itself... the Ultimates Network is active in all of them. Communication between non-continuous space-time is difficult, yes...


Connection established.
...but not impossible.

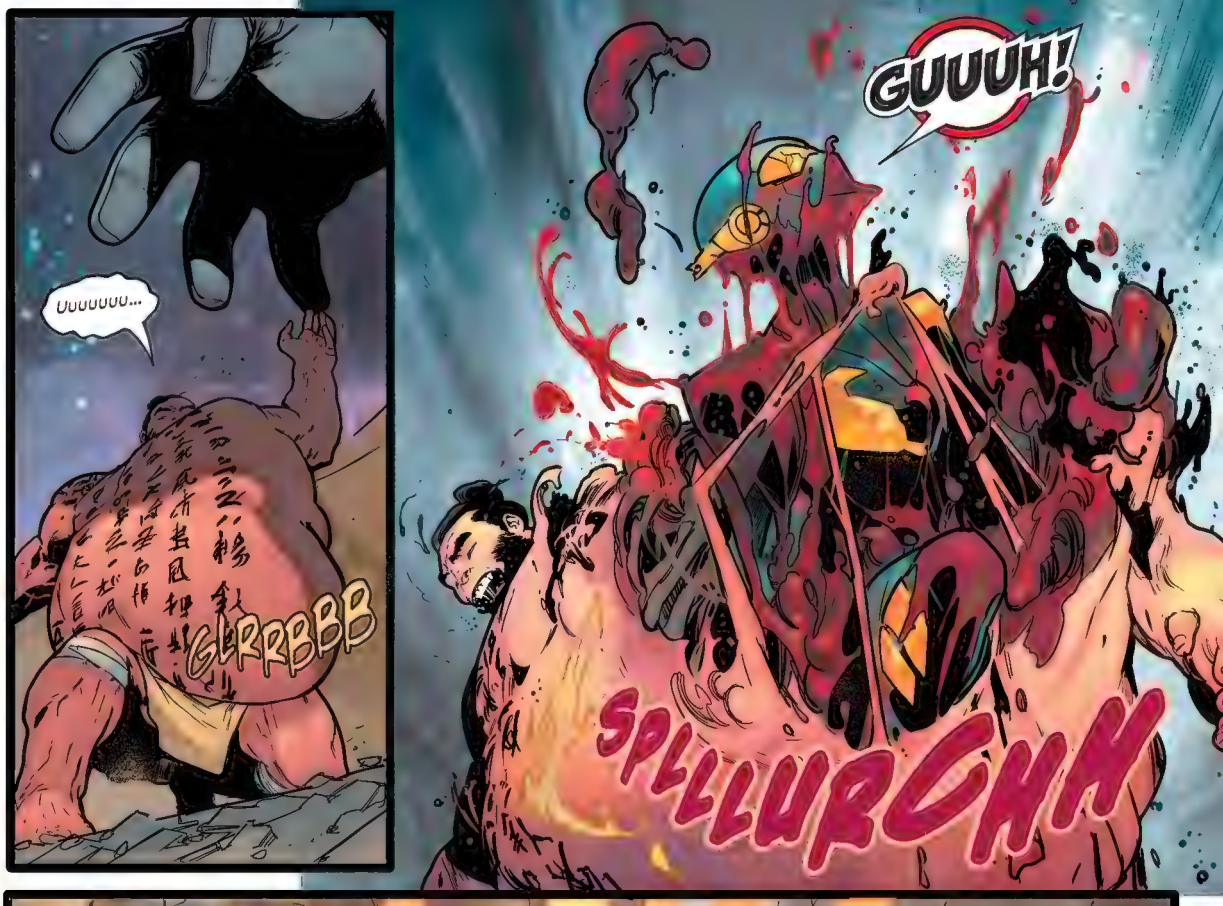
It's all on their terms. We have to--
You call yourselves heroes. You're children.
"Living out your adolescent power fantasies."
KRAKADOOOOOOM
BIG BANG PHOENIX CONFLAGRATION. (18 HIROSHIMAS LVL.)
ATOM-SMASHING THUNDERCLAP.
Ughh!
I will teach you about power. And the real world.
HIGGS KNIFE HAND STRIKE.

I have studied the teachings of the Great Enlightened Masters and reduced five thousand years of wisdom to *three perfect words:*
Peace Through Strength.
MEGATON EXTINCTION ATTACK (THIRD EXECUTION).
"*This* is my message.
MADAM CURIE'S DEATH BY TEN MILLION CUTS.
Burn, damn you! *Burn!*
"This is the *savage truth* I bring.
We train in the roaring heart of nuclear reactors! I've killed better men than you in 100-million-degree heat!
Don't stop, Jim! *Everything* has a limit!
Nuclear-powered martial arts monsters... I can't *handle* this! It's too big!
"There is no such thing as heroes.
Accessing Iron Lad visual feed...
CRZZTTKK
What...?
No.

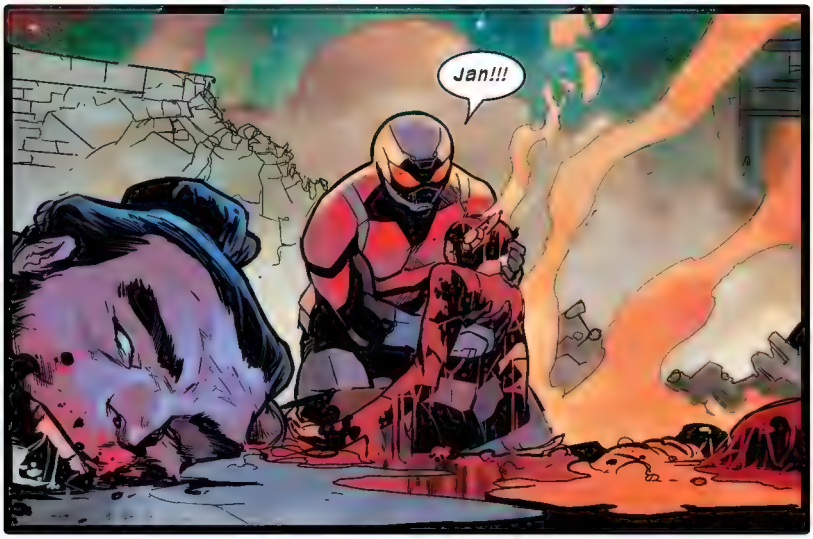
FLYING FALLOUT KICK.
Ughhh!
"What we have accomplished is a *miracle*.
Thor!
"Out of *chaos*, we made *harmony*.
CYCLOTRON DERVISH TECHNIQUE.
Ughhh!
C'mon, Hank! We're the Giant-Man and Wasp! "No job too big or small!" Remember?
PICOSECOND PARTICLE PLUCK.
"And the people *love* us for it.
...Jan?

"Look how we are loved."
GULP
Jan!!!
You know, as the worldwide symbol for peace, I've *missed* blood on my hands.
I wonder if *Gandhi* ever felt this way.
2X ATOMIC IRON FIST. (32 HIROSHIMAS LVL.)
KRAKOOOOOOOM
Use the signal as the *bridge*... StarkSuits give precise locations in high-dimensional space...
...don't forget to compensate for idiosyncratic physics and flow of time... interdimensional sheer will be a problem...

Jan!!!!!
I'll kill you!!!
Heh.
SUPERMASSIVE BODY BLOCK.
Let-- go!
Eh?
Hurk!


UUUUUUU...
GLRRBBB
GUUUH!
SPLLURCHK

Uhhhh...


Jan!!!

...Signal strength degrading...total signal loss estimated in seven seconds...
Seven seconds and seven thousand unknowns.
One mistake and everyone is dead. Again.

I should *thank* you. Blowing up pipelines, destabilizing power grids, burning down the *White House*...
You've only driven them deeper into our arms. Nothing makes one crave the status quo quite like a violent *threat* to it.
THE PROFESSOR'S ENLIGHTENED CORNER THROW.
KRRRRRRRRR
Of course, a few will be inspired. A few always are. But most will be *afraid.*
Afraid of *chaos.* Afraid of *change.* Afraid of losing what little they have.
In time, they'll come to wonder if the Ultimates ever truly existed. If the whole thing wasn't an *elaborate conspiracy.*
If you didn't really work for *us* all along.
In a way, I suppose you did.
Rest now, little Stark. You've *earned* it.
GIGATON VICE GRIP.
EURRGHHH!
RRRRCRUUNNNCHHHHH
In the end, you were our best little soldier.

NOOO!

Everything! You destroy *everything!* **Enough!**

I'm impressed! In a different world, your spirit might *count* for something.

SPLURCH

But this is not that world.
Take heart--your defeat here will avoid a wider conflict. Your sacrifice saves *millions* of lives.
In truth, dying will be the most heroic thing "the Ultimates" have ever done.

...Total signal loss in 4...3...2...
Now or never. Life or death.
All hope lies in *Doom.*

Eh?!?!
ZZZZZUUUUUU
RRRHHAGH!
UUUUUMMMMMMM
Uhhhhhh...
Doom? How--?
NO! Too late! You were too late!

IRON LAD IS DEAD!
TWELVE MONTHS REMAINING...